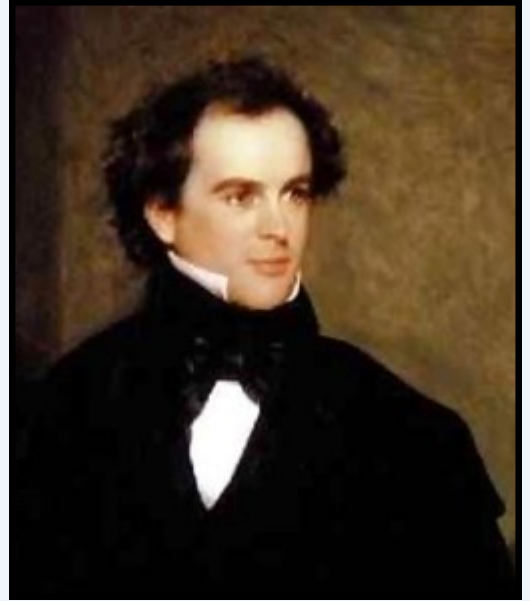


FIRST GLIMPSE OF MOUNT WASHINGTON

After visiting the White Mountains in the 1830s, author Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote several short stories that were inspired by his time in New Hampshire. In this passage from a story called "The Great Stone Face," he describes seeing Mount Washington for the first time. He refers to Mount Washington as "he."

"It was here that we obtained our first view, except at a distance, of the principal group of mountains. Mount Washington, indeed, looked near to heaven: he was white with snow a mile downward, and had caught the only cloud that was sailing through the atmosphere to veil his head. Let us forget the other names of American statesmen that have been stamped upon these hills, but still call the loftiest WASHINGTON.



The air nearly two thousand feet above the sea, was now sharp and cold, like that of a clear November evening in the lowlands. By morning, probably, there would be a frost, if not a snowfall, on the grass and rye, and an icy surface over the standing water. I hoped to find comfortable quarters in a house which we were approaching, and of pleasant company in the guests who were assembled at the door."

Notice & Wonder

- Look up in the dictionary any words you don't know.
- What is the author's impression of Mount Washington?
- What descriptive words does he use to show what he thinks about the mountain?

This excerpt has been edited so that it's easier to read.



Social Studies for Granite State Kids